SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Mr Nixon's "seriousness" in negotiation

THE Nixon administration has been excessively abusing the words seriousness and good will. It has claimed that its escalation has no other purpose than force Hanoi to negotiate "seriously." Most recently after its humiliating setbacks in the North, it also alleged that the only assurances it had got from Hanoi were that the latter would "negotiate seriously". By doing so, it wanted to show that it alone has always meant business in the talks and that Nixon has been a president engaged in a tireless search for peace in Viet Nam and a great author of peace initiatives.

SUCH assertions only do violence to the very facts of his whole first term as US Chief Executive. A close scrutiny of his record will reveal that in all his past four years in office, he could hardly boast of any action in favour of peace and that he only set on foot a fresh war of aggression which outdid Johnson's in many fields.

He entered the White House at a time when his predecessor had de-escalated the war by unconditionally halting the bombing of North Viet Nam and coming to the Paris Conference in search of an arrangement to restore peace in Viet Nam. And as Mr Harriman pointed out, Nixon missed an opportunity to negotiate when he had just taken office and since then he had let pass many others.

As a matter of fact he did not only miss them but even undermined peace and sabotaged the negotiations. In an article on these, Kissinger has spilled the beans by affirming that if at the Paris Conference the US could not have its way, it would have to look for other means to achieve its objectives to the maximum. For Nixon, negotiation is only a trick to step up the implementation of his "Vietnamization" strategy, to deceive US opinion and to conceal his war intensification. All through the four years' parleying, he had tried more than once to downgrade the talks, to drive them into a stalemate in order to wreck them.

As early as at the beginning of 1972, he already had the intention to scuttle them by unilaterally suspending their sessions. Because of his military reverses he had to come to terms with his opponent in October 1972 to immediately afterward operate a volte-face, by refusing to sign the accord reached. Could such behaviour be described as serious?

In mid-November 1972, universal fulmination against his bad faith forced him back to the bargaining table. But while the technicians of both sides were meeting, he called a press conference and passed the buck onto the Vietnamese whom he charged with suggesting too many alterations to the agreement concluded. Following this disgraceful slander, he ordered the most frantic ever escalation against the DRVN, the commitment of a formidable armada of B.52's and tactical planes in furious raids on Hanoi, Haiphong and other places for 12 days on end starting from 7.30 p.m. on December 18, 1972. He thought that this fearful deluge of bombs and bullets, as devastating as many A-bombs, would bring his adversary to his knees and back to the conference table to accept his conditions and concede to him what he had been unable to secure on the battlefield.

But once again he come out the loser of this dangerous confrontation, after suffering severe losses in men and materials. In only twelve days, 34 B.52's, 5 F.111 and 42 other planes were brought down. It turned out that it was not Hanoi who could no longer bear it, as he had expected, but the White House, caught napping by the forceful riposte of the North Vietnamese people and armed forces and the world's angry reaction against his exercise in dastardliness. Could this be called seriousness in negotiation on Nixon's part?

HIS B-52 blackmail having proved futile, he had to agree to the return to the pre-December 18 situation, to enable the peace talks to be resumed. But it seems that the leopard cannot change his spots. During an interview with some members of Congress he calmly stated that his Viet Nam policy laid down on May 8, 1972 (i.e. the mining of the DRVN ports and bombing of her capital and main port) was still valid and that the halt in the air strikes North of the 20th parallel could go on only on condition that Hanoi would display seriousness in negotiation. The US, he added, wanted to talk meaningfully and if both sides did the same, an agreement could be arrived at.

There cannot possibly be any serious negotiations as long as Nixon has not given up his utterior motive and use of military force to impose a political solution to the Viet Nam issue. There cannot be any meaningful talks unless he adopts a correct peace position prompted by the inescapable fact that the US is the aggressor and by the realization of the necessity for it to withdraw all its troops and end all its involvement in South Viet Nam, by its recognition of the simultaneous existence there of two political regimes, two armies and other political forces. Such absurd demands as a bi-lateral withdrawal, restoration of the status of the demilitarized zone and guarantee for the "sovereignty" of the Thieu quisling regime will only lead the conference back to a deadlock. One cannot put on the same footing the aggressor and those who fight against aggression and for independence and freedom. As the aggressor, the US must bring its aggression to an end by pulling out all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and winding up all its involvement there. There cannot and shall not be any question of a "bi-lateral" withdrawal. There cannot be any question of "sovereignty" for a gang of Vietnamese traitors, because the provisional military demarcation line cannot be turned into a boundary between two states. History has for centuries established that Viet Nam is one country and the Vietnamese are one nation. The Gianh river can only record the offences of those who want to partition our land but it can never

(Continued on page 7)

How to answer "seriously" to Nixon's bellicosity

US-PUPPET WAR CRIMES IN SOUTH VIET NAM DENOUNCED

The South Viet Nam Committee to Denounce the War Crimes Committed by the US Imperialists and their Henchmen in South Viet Nam has issued a communiqué on the crimes committed by Nixon administration and the Nguyen Van Thieu puppets in South Viet Nam in 1972.

The communiqué said :

"WITH an increased number of aircraft and warships, the US aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu junta have conducted frantic raids in many areas, and carried out with unprecedented brutality their policy of genocide, biocide and ecocide against both zones of Viet Nam. Particularly B.52s carpet-bombed many densely populated areas, cities and their vicinity, massively killing innocent people.

At present, not a single place in Quang Tri, the 4,700 square-kilometre northernmost province of South Viet Nam has been left intact by US bombs and shells. Most of the land was plowed up by B.52s bombing, many areas were bombed on hundreds of occasions. The capital of Quang Tri of just about three square kilometres was, in five months, bombed with a tonnage equal to 7 atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima. Quang Tri city and seven townships and populous areas in the province have been completely destroyed by US bombs and shells.

Within 34 days (from July 27 to August 25, 1972), 45 out of the 83 hamlets in Hoai Nhon district, Binh Dinh province, were razed to the ground. More than 10,000 dwelling houses were burnt down, 576 civilians killed and over 1,000 others wounded. Besides, more than 2,500 cows and buffaloes were killed and many dykes and dams destroyed.

In Ben Tre, from May 30 to October 1972 alone B.52s in more than 200 sorties dropped hundreds of tons of bombs and ground artillery fired over 20,000 shells into densely populated areas of Chau Thanh, Giong Trom and Mo Cay districts, killing thousands of civilians and devastating more than 1,500 hectares of orchards.

In My Tho, from June 1 to October 15, 1972 the US-Thieu command sent some 300 sorties of B.52 and more than 1,000 sorties of tactical planes to shower demolition and phosphorous bombs and fire hundreds of thousands of artillery rounds on densely populated areas of Cai Be, Cai Lay and Hau Thanh districts. The bombs and shells killed or wounded thousands of people, destroyed more than 3,500 dwelling houses and damaged thousands of hectares of orchards. The repeated carpet-bombings by B.52s have laid waste to practically all the orchards, gardens and houses in Long Tien, Long Trung, Long Khanh and Phu Quy villages of Cai Lay district.

The densely populated areas in the vicinity of Saigon were also targeted by B.52 bombers. From September 25 to November 25, 1972 200 sorties of B.52s and thousands of sorties of tactical planes brutally struck densely populated areas in Hoc Mon, Cu Chi, Trang Bang, Dau Tieng, Ben Cat, Chau Thanh, Lai Thieu, Thu Duc and Di An... districts of Tay Ninh, Gia Dinh and Thu Dau Mot provinces. These wanton raids killed or wounded thousands of civilians and destroyed more than 1,500 homes.

All told, in the surrounding of Saigon, in only the first week of October 1972, B.52s showered over 6,000 tons of bombs. Many villages and hamlets lying just three or five kilometers from Saigon were also blotted out.

The US-Thieu have also launched savage air and artillery bombardments on populous urban areas newly liberated by the liberation forces at a time when population had not yet time to move out and wounded puppets could not yet be evacuated. Many areas in Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Que Son, Ba To, Kontum and An Loc towns were turned into "lunar landscape." Since early 1972 three provincial capitals and 25 district townships have been exterminated.

Along with the use of bombs and shells, the US aggressors and their stooges continued to use toxic chemicals and phosphorous shells in many areas. In Rach Gia province, on October 10, they sprayed toxic chemicals in high concentration along both banks of Cai Lon and Cai Be rivers and on an eight-kilometre portion in Go Quao and Giong Rieng areas, seriously affecting hundreds of civilians.

In Can Tho province, on March 13 they sprayed toxic chemicals on a seven-kilometre stretch in Vinh Vien and Hoa Luu villages of Long My district. On August 5, they sprayed toxic chemicals on densely populated areas of Phung Hiep district, affecting thousands of people.

In Ca Mau province, on November 2 and 7 toxic chemicals were dropped on Phu My and Phong Lac villages of Cai Nuoc district and on Hoa Thanh village close to the provincial capital, poisoning hundreds of people. Many persons vomitted and got headache. In Quang Ngai province, on July 27 they dropped larvae to devastate large expanses of crop fields in six villages of Son Ha district. In Quang Tri province, within the seven days ending July 17, the US-Thieu clique on 31 occasions used toxic chemicals and phosphorous bombs and shells against densely populated areas in the provincial capital, Dong Ha township and in the surroundings of the provincial and district capitals, affecting thousands of civilians.

After exterminating bombings and shellings, the Saigon puppets forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave for concentration camps or "strategic hamlets," most being unable to take anything with them. Due to the harsh conditions in these concentration camps, many inmates died of starvation.

At present more than 400,000 people mostly old persons, women and children are penned up in concentration camps in Hue, Da Nang, Que Son (Quang Nam province), Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Ba Ria, Long Khanh, Tan An, Cai Rang (Can Tho province). Their lives are in serious jeopardy.

More brutal still, the Saigon puppets massacred people right in the concentration camps by bombings and shellings. On May 13, 19 and 20, 1972, they showered bombs on concentration camps in Hon Lep, Hon Mon, Cai Re and Long Phung, the surroundings of Gia But and on Ba To district town (Quang Ngai province), killing hundreds of civilians and destroying more than 1,000 dwelling houses. In Ba Ria province, from May 20 to June 5 they dropped thousands of bombs and fired artillery shells on to densely populated areas, around Dat Do district town, the Xuyen Moc and Duc Thanh military sub-sectors and four "strategic hamlets" in Hoa Long village, killing many civilians.

In Tay Ninh province, on April 27, 1972 US aircraft dropped hundreds of tons of bombs and artillery, fired more than 3,100 rounds into the Long Thuan "strategic hamlet," Ben Cau district, killing over 100 persons and completely destroying churches and over 100 dwelling houses.

In Kontum province, on May 27, 1972 many US planes including B.52s rained bombs on churches, schools and charity establishments in Kong H'ring, a heavily populated area, killing and wounding more than 300 persons, mostly orphans, pupils and puppet army invalids.

The communiqué also denounced the US aggressors and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique for stepping up white terror campaign against the people of various strata in the areas still under their control.

The US-Thieu clique have since April 1972 arrested, detained and tortured nearly 300,000 persons, nearly 5,000 of whom were arrested in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang and Rach Gia and later deported to Poulo Condor and Phu Quoc islands without trial.

The US-Thieu clique have intensified the repression, persecution and assassination of patriots and other peace - loving people still illegally detained in their prisons. At the Poulo Condor, Phu Quoc and Chi Hoa prisons alone, more than 1,000 persons were killed or wounded in the past year. They went as far as to poison prisoners at the Phu Quoc and Rach Gia jails. At present, they are classifying the prisoners or changing political prisoners into common law convicts to materialize their scheme of assassinating patriots and peace-loving people or refusing to release them in the event of peace agreement."

December

1972

Puppet soldiery, the Vietnamization's backbone, scrambling for dear life

IN December last year, the 9th month of their wave of strategic offensives and uprisings, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam made substantial combat gains in all the three strategic areas.

The US, meanwhile, continued supplying the Saigon army with masses of weapons and war means. They also accelerated the build-up of the Saigon air force, and hurled its troops into many counter-attacks on the liberated zone. Air strikes were intensified against the latter and the air war against North Viet Nam was furiously escalated with the resumption of the mining of ports and fielding of even B-52 strategic aircraft in carpet-bombing raids to obliterate large city districts including Hanoi—the capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam — and series of heavily populated areas.

The enemy, however, sustained most stinging setbacks on all the battlefronts in Viet Nam. Far from securing a "position of strength" and turning the tide, he sank still more deeply into the morass of strategic defensive. The armed forces and people

The PLAF keep up their searing attacks

of South Viet Nam, greatly heartened by the exploits of their northern kindred, repeatedly dealt thunder blows at the Saigon troops and fighting erupted violently, most particularly in the Quang Tri — Thua Thien sector, the High Plateaux, Eastern Nam Bo, and the perimeter of Saigon itself.

Quang Tri – Thua Thien

Characteristically, despite unprecedentedly forceful reaction of the enemy, the liberation forces kept up their actions with constant success. The Saigon troops taking advantage of bad weather, persistent heavy rains and mud, tried to sally forth. Swarms of strategic and tactical aircraft, 7th Fleet ships, and crack Saigon units, were deployed in counter-attacks to retake the area of the Cua Viet river-mouth in the north and mountain regions west of Quang Tri town.

The enemy, however, dismally failed in all these operations. West of Quang Tri town, in Thanh Hoi and Long Quang areas, and on Peak 128, the Saigon 147th and 258th Marine Brigades were trounced by PLAF artillery and infantry, while big contingents of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Paratroop Brigades were destroyed in La Vang, Trieu Phong, Tich Tuong and Tan Tao areas. On December 16, and 17, the PLAF decimated a paratroop battalion west of Peak 128 by inflicting 530 casualties and wrecking 7 tanks and 3 heavy howitzers. In the two days that followed, 500 other enemy were wiped out southwest and northeast of the provincial capital.

The enemy came under both frontal attacks and rear assaults. Guerillas and regional forces of Trieu Phong and Hai Lang districts, in close co-operation with the main forces, sprang many surprise attacks behind the enemy line, harassing adverse communication lines and playing havoc in logistic bases. On December 13, for example, while the main forces disposes of 150 Saigon paratroopers on Peak 128, guerillas of Trieu Phong did short work of 135 other men and 2 tanks west of Highway One, and regional forces took a toll of 110 Saigon troops and 5 military vehicles on Peak 367 and in My Chanh area.

The PLAF's efficiency increased markedly in spite of the bad weather. Within the first 20 days and in the surroundings of Quang Tri town alone, over 2,000 enemy were put out of action. The US-Saigon command utterly failed in their scheme to regain lost ground, and Quang Tri remained the scene of the most outstanding exploits of the patriots. The Saigon Marine and Paratroop Divisions were both battered and held at bay. The enemy's morale kept sinking while the PLAF, despite US fire power, pressed their onslaughts relentlessly. *AP* reported on December 13 that tanks were moving south, and *Time* magazine said on December 7 the spirit of the liberation forces remained high, that the command was better than 8 months before, when the offensives began, and that most of the Saigon soldiers had no heart to fight.

High Plateaux

To break the siege of Kontum town, the US and Nguyen Van Thieu made early in the month desperate sallies, with the Saigon 23rd Division, into Vo Dinh area, northwest of the town. Yet, for all the support of both strategic and tactical war planes and artillery, the 44th and 53rd regiments were unable to dodge the rain of blows of the PLAF, who, after eight days, on December 11, completely beat off the enemy operation by knocking out a battalion, decimating a regimental command staff and 3 other battalions, blasting 8 howitzers destroying 4 ammo stores and downing 4 war planes. All the three battalions of the Saigon 44th Regiment were badly mauled.

Moreover tre liberation armed forces, made frequent inroads into enemy territory in Kontum, Pleiku and Gia Lai. Enemy bases in the district towns of Thanh An and Phuoc Thien and in the capital of Pleiku were assaulted, large quantities of war supplies destroyed, many forttifications levelled, and many fuel or ammo dumps blasted.

Meanwhile the noose around Kontum kept tightening, and the enemy garrison in the town lived in utter confusion and fear. Saigon rangers in Plei Mrong fled in panic on December 4 as soon as PLAF infantry was sighted.

The PLAF kept all the initiative, forcing their adversary out of his posts, shelling his rear bases, cutting his lifelines, and foiled his counter-attacks, thereby making his position even more critical.

In resettlement centres and other enemy-held areas, the people, with the assitance of the liberation forces, rose up again and again. Many succeeded in getting back to their old places or the liberated zone, where they joined their fellow-countrymen in production and defending with arms in hand the revolutionary power.

Eastern Nam Bo and near Saigon

The first days of the month saw a series of withering onsets by the PLAF, which struck great fear into the Saigon soldiery and made news.

Before dawn on December 6, the PLAF pumped artillery fire into Tan Son Nhut airbase, wrecking over 50 aircraft of various kinds, setting on fire 7 big fuel dumps, and wiping out 230 American aggressors or Saigon troops among them many US pilots and technicians. The raid was described by *AP* as the biggest on Saigon since the 1968 Tet offensive.

Eight days later, on December 14, the PLAF assailed a big ammo storage in Thanh Tuy Ha over 6 miles southeast of Saigon. The store with a capacity of around 40,000 tons, was the biggest of its kind in all of the 3rd Army Corps area. Western sources commented that this was the most devastating attack ever launched by the PLAF in their 9-month-old offensive.

Then, just before dawn the following day, the PLAF mounted artillery and ground assaults on the oil complex in Nha Be, 6 miles of Saigon, and the Long Binh logistic area, 12 miles to the northeast. As admitted by a US military spokesman, 32 big oil tanks were burnt and 101 jeeps and lorries destroyed. The same day and on December 16, PLAF gunners repeatedly pounded enemy position near Saigon and the USAF base in Bien Hoa, inflicting serious losses.

All told, in that 10-day period, the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo and the Saigon area launched 8 artillery and ground attacks on 5 major logistic complexes and airbases, which to the enemy are strategically important, as huge stocks of hardware or staging-points for air operations. Tens of thousands of tons of weapons and war means freshly sent by Nixon to the Thieu administration to beef up the Saigon army and prolong the war and, thereby, create a position of strength were ruined.

With a whole series of so devastating attacks on so great a quantity of war means within so short period of time, the PLAF greatly reduced the strength of the enemy, completely upset Nixon's emergency plan to "Vietnamize" the war, and meted out due punishment to the American warmaniacs for their frantic effort to prolong the war.

The dramatic advances of the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo and the Saigon area in the first half of December 1972 made it quite clear that a great threat is hanging over US-Saigon last sanctuaries and that the effort against the "pacification" programme is gaining momentum right in the vicinity of Saigon.

Love and care for the PLAF combatants

RESOUNDING VICTORIES OF THE PEOPLES OF INDOCHINA

NORTH VIET NAM

Hanoi outskirt paddies strewn with B.52 debris

36 UNITS AND INDIVIDUALS OF THE ARMED FORCES DECORATED

President Ton Duc Thang, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, has signed an order conferring the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces on 24 units and 12 individuals of the various services and branches of the Viet Nam People's Army and the militia and guerillas.

All the newly honoured units and individuals have recorded meritorious achievements in fighting and serving the fight in the past years especially in 1972.

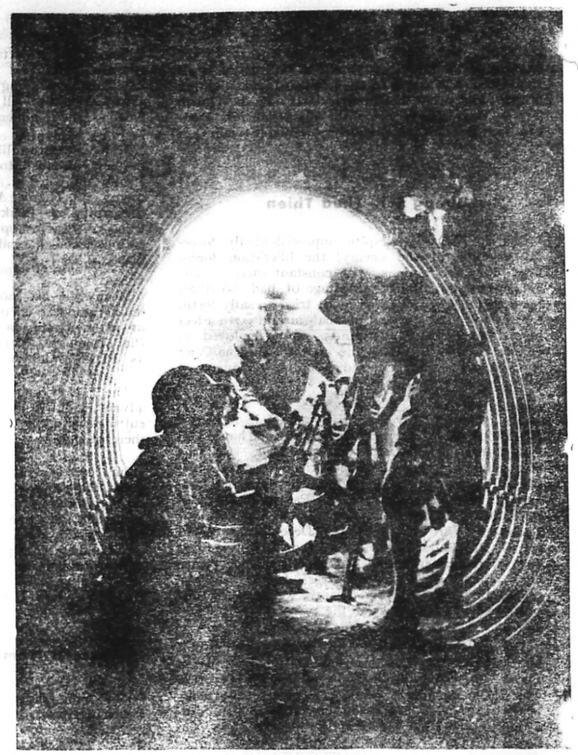
The whole missile force was awarded the title of hero. Since 1965, the missile force has shot down more than 800 US planes including 57 B52's. In particular, in the period from December 18 to December 28, 1972, it shot down 37 US planes including 32 B.52's.

For many units this is the second time they are cited as "Hero Units," like the Third Company of the Air Force, the 101st battalion of the army transport service, the 2nd battalion of sappers... Many of the awarded combatants are still very young but have scored very brilliant feats in the fight against the US marauders since April this year.

Lieutenant Le Thanh Dao, a pilot of the People's Air Force has shot down by himself six American planes and commanded his group to bring down five others. Another lieutenant of the Air Force, Nguyen Duc Soat, 26, has also shot down six US planes and commanded his unit to shoot down three others. Still another lieutenant of the Air Force, Do Van Lanh, 24, has himself shot down four US planes and Lieutenant Nguyen Tien Sam, 26, shot down five US planes and provided cover for his companions to bring down five others. The other decorated units belong to the infantry, artillery, anti-aircraft artillery, engineering, radar and tansport services and the militia and guerilla.

In a frontpaged article today, the daily *Nhan Dan* warmly greeted the newly decorated heroes and hero units. The paper noted that they have not only displayed high determination to fight and to win but also an ever higher technical standard. Our army, the paper stressed, has obviously mastered science and modern techniques to victoriously counter an enemy provided with the most uptodate war equipment. The newly decorated heroes and hero units, the paper went on, are very worthy representatives of the fighting will and glorious traditions of our army which is ready to make every sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland and for socialism.

SOUTH VIET NAM



Underground fortification captured by PLAF fighters

Nearly half a million enemy shattered

— In 1972, the South Viet Nam people and armed forces launched simultaneous offensive and concerted uprisings and recorded great victories.

They wiped out a large portion of the enemy live force, putting out of action 480,000 enemy. In terms of units, they knocked out or heavily decimated 8 divisions, 35 regiments, brigades or tactical groups, and 327 battalions, over 750 companies and 1,850 platoons of "civil guards" and "militia", and disbanded a large force of the "popular defence".

Material losses inflicted on the enemy included 11,000 military vehicles among them 2,850 tanks and armoured cars, 1,500 artillery pieces, 45,000 weapons of various kinds, and hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs, shells and gasoline, 2,500 aircraft, 400 war vessels and 650 supply dumps.

Many vast areas were liberated and more than 5 million people rose up and established their power.

At the end of March 1972, while the US aggressors and the puppets were ballyhooing about their "success" in the "Vietnamization" policy and the "Nixon doctrine", the strategic offensive of the South Viet Nam people and liberation forces, which took the enemy in surprise, reverted all their reckless calculation and drove them into a position of passivity.

The offensive and uprising of the South Viet Nam PLAF and people has entered its ninth month. It closed the historic year of 1972 with steady, all-sided and big victories never known before.

This is another failure of the Saigon administration and army and a very serious setback for the US "Vietnamization" policy.

CAMBODIA — 103,000 enemy put out of action

In a communiqué issued rencetly, Ha Nim, member Politburo of the National United Front of Kampuchea Central Committee and Minister of Information and Propaganda of the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union, outlined the victories of strategic importance won by the patriots last year.

The liberation war in Cambodia was marked, at the beginning of last year, by a powerful counter-offensive in regions west of Phnom Penh, along Road 7, on the left bank of the Mekong river, and in Kompong Thom province.

As the patriots pressed their actions, the liberated zone was widened to nearly eighty five percent of the Cambodian territory, covering the most densely populated region west of Phnom Penh.

In the wet season that followed, the CPNLAF in the four months ending August, launched another strategic offensive drive, in which they finally smashed the enemy's operations "Sorya I" and "Sorya II" in Eastern Cambodia, and "Angkor Chay" in the northern part of the country, successfully safeguarding the Angkor Temple area.

Another wave of attacks was mounted later, from August to November, on vital communication lines, such as Roads 5, 2 and 4, which quite often denied the enemy of supplies and which placed Phnom Penh under the patriots' pressure. The patriotic armed forces during this period also seized control of Road 2, besieged the enemy in Ta Keo province, and made deep thrusts into Phnom Penh.

According to statistics available in the communiqué, by November last year, the patriots had put out of action some 103,000 enemy including 120 officers, captured 17,300 firearms, 140 radios, and some 1,000 tons of war material. Besides, the patriots destroyed 415 tanks, armoured cars and other military vehicles, 25 artillery pieces, 35 big-sized war vessels, and 80 gunboats and motor launches, and brought down 109 aircraft of various kinds. 520 barracks or basecamps were levelled, hundreds of kilometres of roads destroyed and 120 bridges blown down.

750,000 more inhabitants were freed from the grip of the Phnom Penh clique of traitors and some 1,500 officers and men of the Phnom Penh army crossed over to the patriots with their weapons.

As for the enemy, the communiqué said, he was badly trounced and driven away from Kreck, Roads 7 and 16 and took hard beatings on the Mekong River.

The communiqué further pointed out that the enemy critical military setbacks and despair and his serious food shortage resulted in the collapse of his political position and ever deeper inner contradictions.

With its territory shrinking up fast, the communiqué added, the Phnom Penh clique has now lost hold of a major part of the population. It can no longer stabilize the Cambodian economy, and has even brought about an acute rice shortage

In conclusion the communiqué noted that to save the Phnom Penh clique from its total collapse, the US had resorted to fallacious and sinister diplomatic manœuvers by claiming for "on-the-spot ceasefire", "negotiations" "compromise," etc., but had been foiled in all these moves by the patriotic forces.

On the other hand, the prestige of the National United Front of Cambodia and the Royal Government of National Union keeps increasing, so does the world support for the Cambodian patriots, the communiqué stressed.

Lon Nol soldiers' barrack in Prey Veng overrun by Cambodian Liberation fighters

LAOS — 23,700 enemy wiped out

THE Lao patriotic armed forces in 1972 recorded a tremendous victory by putting out of action over 23,700 enemy, wiping out or decimating 11 Mobile Groups (regiment-sized outfit) and 17 battalions of the puppet armies, according to *KPL*.

The agency said :

In 1972, the Lao armed forces and people took the initiative of action on all battlefronts, curbing all operations of the US and its quislings against the liberated zone.

Right in the first days of 1972, after wiping out 20 battalions and driving the Vang Pao "Special Forces" and Thai troops out of the Plain of Jars in Xieng Khoang province, the patriots intensely bombarded the US - Vang Pao basecamp at Samthong-Longcheng and broke the enemy defence line more than one hundred kilometers long north of Vientiane.

In southern Laos, the patriots broke a major nibbling operation on the Bolovens Plateau, badly mauled the enemy at Phalan, Donghen, Nalau and Seno in Savannakhet, liberated the Khong Sedon provincial capital and Phia Phay township, and cut Highway 13 at many places.

The US imperialists, taking advantage of the rainy season, intensified their "special war" by massively dispatching many Thai regular battalions to Laos and intensifying air and ground attacks against the liberated zone under the control of the patriotic forces.

In June, the enemy mustered some 7,000 Lao puppet soldiers and Thai troops to conduct Operation "Black Lion" under the direct command of Gen. Kouprasith, deputy-commander of the Vientiane army, and with massive US air support, in the hope of retaking the Khong Sedon town and other places in the liberated zone of Laos. However, almost all the enemy's nibbling operations foiled, thousands of enemy were knocked out and dozens of enemy planes were shot down.

Two months later, the enemy mobilized over 50 battalions, for a nibbling operation in the Plain of Jars – with intent to take the LPLA's pressure off the Long Cheng basecamp. But all its attacks were defeated by the Xieng Khoang armed forces.

Late in October when the official peace talks started in Vientiane, the US and its hirelings sent the Vientiane 1st Division to Muong Soui region, north of the Plain of Jars, and dozens of battalions to Saravane, Pak Song and Phalan (southern Laos) and Pak Ou and Pak Xuong in Luang Prabang in an attempt to turn the tide. But they met with bitter failure, and the wet monsoon brought them one of the biggest defeats in the history of their war in Laos.

In Xieng Khoang, the Liberation Army and the patriotic neutralist armed forces repelled all enemy pushes at the edge of the Plain of Jars, putting nearly 5,000 enemy out of action by neatly wiping out the 23rd Vang Pao special force Mobile Group, and heavily trouncing six "Mobile Groups" and many battalions including four Thai battalions. Enemy based at Sam Thong, Long Cheng and Buom Long were intensively bombarded.

In their actions along Highway 13, at the Salaphoukhoun road junction area and Thakhec, Sebangphay, Nam Thon, Pha Xing, Pha Phieng late in the year, the patriotic forces took heavy toll of enemy troops.

According to still incomplete figures, the Lao patriotic armed forces and people last year put out of action over 23,700 enemy. They seized or destroyed over 5,400 firearms including 685 guns, 246 radio transceivers, 120 military vehicles and thousands of tons of other war material. 165 aircraft were shot down or destroyed on the ground.

Enemy position pounded by Lao Liberation Artillery

On the occasion of the 17th founding anniversary of the Lao LPF

Thao Ven's scout team

WE arrived at a small hamlet at the foot of the mountain. It consisted of only 8 households. In the 1969 rainy season, the Vang Pao special forces launched an inroad, codenamed Operation "Ku Kiet" into the Xieng Khoang liberated zone. The soldiery dragged everything through fire and sword and herded the inhabitants into a concentration camp. All the 8 families, who had at their disposal only crossbows and arrows to hunt wild animals and machettes to carve out milpas, were boarded on aircraft at gun-point and taken away. Since their impounding, all these people, old and young, men and women alike, were forced to be trained in rifle-shooting and grenade-throwing. Later on, two 81mm mortars were brought in and planted at both ends of the camp. They were pointed to a road portion and aimed at fixed targets. As things went, by day, young men and women had to climb the mountains on forage missions and by night, the old folks took turns in firing the mortars at regular intervals. When everything was in good order, General Vang Pao himself visited the camp, accompanied by 2 lanky bare-footed Americains wearing Meo costumes too short for them and jungle knives.

"These Americans are also descendants of our *Meo* tribes," Vang Pao told the inmates, "but they live in the USA. They have the same surname "*Thao*" as we. I bring them here to show you that they and we are of the same tock. The *Meo* from rich America have planes with magic eyes which can spot even a pumpkin flower on a milpa. They have air dropped firearms of various calibers. They also have guns with eyes that can see everything in the dark. The *Meo* of America love those of Laos. They assist us in fighting the Pathet Lao communist troops."

The audience could hardly follow the speaker and remained silent as all their attention was focussed on these 2 American *Meo*. As for the children, they burst into laughter. The two red-eyed Americans suddenly whipped their pistols and fired into the air. It frightened the children into silence. The GI's gaffawed. Some young girls began to bunch together, trying to avert the Americans' eyes which were riveting on their breasts.

The meeting ended. Vang Pao showed the Americans the mortar emplacements. They talked for a while and left the site without any one noticing it.

Night fell. I asked my men to wait outside and slipped along into the hamlet. Hardly had I come out of a bush when I saw a trembling silhouette making for the gun site. I sank into the ground and kept a close watch on it. It moved slowly. I strained my eyes and saw that it was a thin old man. He approached the mortar, a shell in his hands.

As if with fright he loaded it in. I expected an explosion. Nothing came. The shell clanked against the gun's barrel and dropped on the ground. The old man hurriedly crouched down and coughed for a moment. After the fit of cough, he stood up and hurried back to the hamlet.

From the bush, I dashed left and took a short cut to meet him halfway. He was staggering away and when he saw me, he uttered a muffled cry, and stepped back. I stood motionless. He drew his sword and charged me.

"What the hell are you doing here at this hour? I'll kill you!"

He closed in on me. He raised the sword and dealt a blow at my shoulder. I offered no resistance and simply stepped aside to dodge the blow. It seemed my reluctance to resist had softened him. He made a few steps backward and stared at me.

"Oh, it's you!"

"Yes, grandpa! I come from Muong Pek, too. I know you and others who have been brought here by Vang Pao troops. You are miserable here. They want you to die from hunger and cold. They have

deprived you of everything. No rice alcohol and no *khen* music. On behalf of the Resistance I am bringing cloth for the villagers, needles and thread for the young girls and pens and books for the children."

He looked me up and down, and angrily said: "I can't trust your words. You talk nice things but you only mean harm to the people!"

Tears welled up my eyes. This land is ours. It is the land of honest and living people. The cruel and wicked enemy has turned our people into robot gunners, living in constant suspicion and fear.

"Grandpa," I explained, "only Vang Pao troops do harm to the people. They loot the people's property, burn down houses, kidnap beautiful girls, force villagers to leave their milpas and bear arms. The revolutionary forces love and respect the people like members of the same family, sharing weal and woe."

The old man said no more. Silently, he put his sword back into its sheath, swiftly stepped into a hut and shut the door on me.

I stood looking at his figure until it vanished. I returned to my comrades. All of us took to a cave, waiting for daybreak The image of the old gunner lingered in my mind as if there was something strange about it. All of a sudden, I heard a noise outside the cave. The shuffling became more and more distinct. I rose to my feet and before me appeared the old man. He had been following us up here without our knowing it. Seeing us, he sank on the ground.

"Alas it's you! sons of the revolution. How I've wearied myself, waiting for you. Everybody in the hamlet is dying to see you again. And here you are!"

I helped him in, flushed with joy and emotion. I had some feeling of guilt for having more or less thought ill of him. During my activity behind the enemy's lines, I had many times come across people seeking contacts with the revolution in the same wary, subtle and sudden manner.

The old man picked up a burning twig to light our faces with and continued, "Don't think ill of me, please. Vang Pao troops are very vicious people. They make frequent incursions into the hamlet. They loot everything and kill anyone who ignores their orders.

"These men are more dangerous than venomous snakes in the wild jungle. Only 3 days ago, they entered the hamlet and took away my grand daughter Thao Nhi. She was just 15 years old and her fingers were still all thumbs at needle work. She refused to bear arms and go foraging. The raiders took her to the mountains. I raced after them, yelling at the top of my lung. I was sent tumbling down. Thao Nhi screamed and managed to break free. The bandits burst into uproarious laughter.

Suddenly Thao Nhi stopped shouting. Moments later, came the voices of the raiders. One of them said: "That girl has for months refused to go on foraging missions and to fire guns. She only thinks of the other side. She must be made an example of."

The bandits tied her to a tree, then walked off, guns in hand. They challenged one another to hit Thao Nhi's eyes in target practice. The winner would receive 2 packs of cigarettes.

I scrambled up the hill when the shooting began...

The old man sat up the whole night telling us the story. He seemed to be greatly relieved by doing so.

Before his departure, he asked, "Have you enough rice?"

"Yes, we have."

"You don't tell the truth," he shook his head.

"I am unhappy to hear that. Last night, I saw you eat wild tubers, That's no good!"

Next day he brought us a bag of rice. The fragrance of the glutinous rice spread all over the cave.

Since our encounter with old Thao Xip, my scout team had the protection of the inhabitants of the hamlet. They gave us devoted assistance. With Thao Xip as our guide, we moved out to reconnoitre the enemy position on the hilltop. After a few nights, we could already form a clear idea of the enemy defense system.

On the last night after completing our task we crawled down the hill. Unfortunately, a mortar shell fired at random exploded by my side. I got wounded and could no longer walk. Behind the mountain range to the east, the sun began to send up its first rays. I crawled in the direction of the hamlet at the foot of the hill. I recalled what Thao Xip had told me the day before. The enemy soldiers used to go down to the hamlet very early in the morning. I ran my hand around by my belt and the hand grenade was still at my side. I felt re-assured. If the enemy troops happened to come here, the grenade would take the lives of some of them. I should never let myself fall into their hands.

It was daybreak when I reached Thao Xip's house. The sun already straddled the mountain ridge east of Long Cheng, and its golden light played on the stream of the Ta Pot river. Seeing me, Thao Xip rushed out of his house and hugged me. He patted my hair, while tears came up in his eyes. Looking at my wound, he felt as if it was his own. He said nothing and immediately walked to the nearby stream. He returned with a handful of leaves. My leg wound was treated with these herbs which had been used for generations by the local inhabitants to save lives. Old Thao Xip tended me and nursed me back to normal, like his own son.

With his help, my team succeeded in sending back intelligence in time, making it possible for the combat plan to be ready on schedule.

A few days later, our unit opened up, destroying the enemy hilltop position. Lying in the hut, I saw old Thao Xip standing in the yard looking up the hill where flashes were tearing the shadow of night. Judging from his appearance I believed he was very pleased.

The whole jungled mountains of Long Cheng were joining the inhabitants of the hamlet in celebrating this feat-of-arms in which they had done their bits.

THAO VEN

(of an intelligence group of the Lao People's Liberation Army)

RSVN and PRC joint communiqué

On the friendship visit by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh to the PRC, a joint communiqué of the RSVN PRG's Foreign Minister and the PRC's Foreign Minister was issued on January 1st, 1973 in Peking. The communiqué said in full :

AT the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, paid an official visit of friendship to the People's Republic of China from December 27, 1972 to January 1, 1973.

During the visit, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh was accorded an exceptionally warm and grand reception by the Chinese Government and people, for which Minister Nguyen Thi Binh expressed her sincere thanks.

Chairman Mao Tse-tung met Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, and they had a cordial and friendly conversation.

Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China met Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and her party.

Talks were held between Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei of the People's Republic of China and Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The two sides noted with concern pertinent matters and had a full discussion on the situation of the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression and for national salvation and on the question of further strengthening the mutual support and assistance between the Chinese people and the people of South Viet Nam, and identical views were recorded.

Both sides point out that now the situation of the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression and for national salvation is growing ever better. The heroic South Vietnamese people have displayed a dauntless revolutionary spirit in the war against US aggression and for national salvation. Under the leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the South Vietnamese people, fearing no difficulty and sacrifice, have fought undauntedly in resistance and scored one brilliant victory after another.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, which is the genuine legitimate government of South Viet Nam warmly supported by the South Vietnamese people, has been recognized by an increasing number of countries and enjoys a high international prestige. Growing constantly in strength, the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have become a strong safeguard of the interests of the people. In contrast, the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet clique, the stooge of US imperialists, revealing ever more clearly its reactionary, dictatorial and traitorous features, is repudiated and opposed by the people of all strata in South Viet Nam and isolated and weakened as never before.

The heroic North Vietnamese people have achieved splendid successes in their struggle against US aggression and for national salvation and in their cause of socialist construction. Showing a valiant and indomitable fighting spirit, the North Vietnamese people under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party have repelled US imperialist air and naval attacks and bombings, dealt heavy blows at the enemy's military adventures and given powerful support and assistance to the struggle of their compatriots in the South.

With their great struggle and victories, the Vietnamese people have vigorously inspired all the oppressed nations and peoples, set a brilliant example for the people of the whole world in their anti- imperialist struggles and received ever wider and stronger sympathy and support from the governments and peoples who love peace and uphold justice.

Under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party headed by the respected and beloved Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the great Chinese people carrying forward their glorious revolutionary tradition and displaying the spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle, have achieved tremendous successes of socialist revolution and socialist construction. So that China is growing ever stronger and more prosperous and the international prestige of the People's Republic of China is rising continuously.

These brilliant successes are a great inspiration and an important contribution to the struggles of the Vietnamese people and the people of the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The two sides point out with emphasis that up to now the US government is still unwilling to stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam. Since last October, the US government had committed a breach of faith, fabricated various pretexts and deliberately obstructed and sabotaged the signing of the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" reached between Viet Nam and the United States. At the same time, it has stepped up the transportation of arms and equipment into South Viet Nam on a massive scale, sent large numbers of disguised military advisors to bolster the fascist rule of the Nguyen Van Thieu puppet clique and its intensified suppression and massacre of patriotic and peace-loving people in South Viet Nam. Furthermore, the US government has of late brazenly dispatched large numbers of US aircraft, including B-52 strategic bombers to carry out wanton bombing against the capital Hanoi, Haiphong and other vast areas of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in a vain attempt to force the Vietnamese people into submission by a military blackmail. This wild attempt will never succeed.

The Vietnamese side declares : The Vietnamese people ardently love peace. But it must be a peace in independence and freedom. So long as the US government continues to pursue a deceitful and perjurious attitude and obstinately intensifies the war in seeking a military victory, the people of South Viet Nam will be determined to fulfil their pledge, together with their kith and kin in the North to realize President Ho Chi Minh's sacred testament, surmount all the hardships and difficulties, carry out with perseverance and intensify their resistance till complete victory, liberate the South, defend the North and proceed to the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

The Chinese side affirms : The Chinese Government and people firmly support the solemn and just stand of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question and the efforts made by them to this end, and firmly support the Vietnamese people in their war against US aggression and for national salvation. The Chinese and Vietnamese people are of the same family. So long as US imperialism does not stop its aggression against Viet Nam, the Chinese people steadfastly following Chairman Mao's teachings, will firmly support and assist the Vietnamese people in their just war, not flinching from the greatest national sacrifice.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh has conveyed to Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Chinese Communist Party, Chinese Government and the fraternal Chinese people the sincere and deep thanks of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people for their consistent strong support and enormous manyfold and effective assistance to the South Vietnamese people.

The two sides are firmly opposed to the US government's delaying and sabotaging the signing of the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" and strongly condemned its war escalation against the people of Viet Nam. The US government must stop its war of aggression and all its war blackmail against Viet Nam, sit down and negotiate earnestly and speedily sign the "Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam" reached by the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on October 20, 1972.

The two sides resolutely support the correct stand taken in the declaration issued by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia on March 23 and the political program of the National United Front of Cambodia.

The two sides resolutely support the five-point political solution put forward by the Lao Patriotic Front on March 6, 1970 and the solemn and just stand it takes in the negotiations.

The two sides firmly believe that whatever tricks US imperialism may play, Viet Nam belongs to the Vietnamese people, Laos belongs to the Lao people, and Cambodia belongs to the Khmer people. Holding high the banner of militant solidarity of the summit conference of the Indochinese peoples, the three Indochinese peoples closely co-ordinating with and supporting each other and persevering in struggle, will surely crown their struggles for national liberation with great victory.

The two sides note with satisfaction that the fraternal friendship and militant unity of the Chinese and South Vietnamese people are daily growing in strength and developing. Minister Nguyen Thi Binh's current visit of friendship to China had made an important contribution to the further consolidation and development of the traditional friendship and militant unity of the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples.

Mr Nixon "seriousness" ...

(Continued from page 1)

partition it, nor divide our nation. The provisional military demarcation line will not tolerate the Vietnamese traitors' turning it into a political boundary, a hostile limit between the two zones. The traitors enjoy no other sovereignty than that over the dollars given them as wages by their US employer. Claiming guarantees for the "sovereignty" of the so-called "Republic of Viet Nam" is tantamount to claiming the permanent partition of the country, the continuation of US neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam. It is a fantastic demand which only betrays the US design of colonial aggression. How could serious negotiations be possible while such unreasonable terms are being stuck to ?

Only serious negotiations can lead to an accord on ending the war. At this juncture, a serious attitude requires the immediate signing of the agreement already reached on October 20, 1972, which will bring the war to an end and restore peace in Viet Nam on the basis of the respect for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and for the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. It will also make possible the termination of all US involvement in Viet Nam and Indochina, and an honorable end to the most disastrous war in terms of lives and wealth in US history.

No fair settlement to the Viet Nam question can disregard the above-mentioned basic national rights of the Vietnamese. Continued use of bombs and shells in extermination raids on a nation fighting for independence and freedom cannot be viewed as a sign of seriousness in negotiation. It is a matter of course that force will be met with force. And no force, however brutal, can intimidate a people who have been for decades battling for their independence and freedom.

For the sake of their fundamental national rights, for the fulfilment of the historic mission entrusted to them by mankind, the Vietnamese not only will negotiate in all seriousness, strictly adhere to the accord already concluded on October 20, 1972 and hold their ground, but also will keep their eyes skinned and give a serious response to any new fiendish military move of the US and its agents.

World people urge:

End US bombing!

Sign the 20 October Accord!

NEVER before in US history has a president been so strongly stigmatized by the whole world as Nixon in recent days. Public feeling everywhere has been running high against his bad faith in connection with the signing of the agreement on ending the war and restoring peace in Viet Nam and his carpet bombing of most populous districts in the DRVN capital. The list of martyred cities like Guernica, Rotterdam, Oradour, Lidice, Babij Jar, Katyn, Sharevilla, Trebrinda... has received a new entry: Hanoi—Christmas 1972.

"Nixon, the murderer!", "Nixon, how many children have you killed?" "Shame on the US aggressors!", "Nixon, you will go down in history as the most cruel US president!", "Stop the bombing, stop the war!"... Such have been the angry outcries of millions of people in front of US Embassies and missions in several countries. Denunciations have been formulated in anti-Nixon statements, appeals, petitions, letters and messages sent from all parts; sharp criticisms have been levelled by government, State and Party leaders, mass organisations, prominent personalities and world press. It is impossible to list all the indignation meetings and all the manifestations of solidarity and firm support for the Vietnamese. An ebullient anti-US and pro-Viet Nam wave has erupted in the Soviet Union, China and other socialist countries, in Asian, African and Latin American countries, in other countries like France, Britain, Italy, Japan, West Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Canada, Argentina, in Singapour, Hongkong, New Zealand, West Berlin... and in scores of cities right in the US.

In several countries, protest meetings and marches have not only been staged in the capitals but also spread to many cities and townships like in Italy, France, Norway... In this outburst of universal anger, there have been unprecedented occurrences in many countries. In Australia, the Labour Minister flatly rejected the US note voicing concern over the economic consequences arisen from the Australian dockers' ban on US ships, and stated: "However big the losses in profits (caused by the dockers' action) may be, they are still extremely trivial compared with the sufferings and damage in property and lives caused by US bombings to Vietnamese men, women and children in Hanoi." Concerning the Nixon administration's refusal to accredit the new Swedish Ambassador in Washington as a result of Sweden's condemnation of US extermination air-raids in North Viet Nam, Premier Olaf Palme declared: "This kind of diplomatic reaction cannot prevent us from expressing our view." Following this, all the five political Parties in the Swedish National Assembly signed an appeal and message to the UN Secretary General condemning US war intensification. A collection of signatures to a petition for an end to US bombing and immediate signing of the October 20, 1972 peace agreement has elicited enthusiastic response from Swedes of all walks of life. In Finland, similar actions have been taken by all the major political parties in the National Assemby, except a 6-member group. In Canada, with all the political parties support, the Lower House passed a resolution urging the US not to resume its air attacks. And it was the first time that the Italian, Austrian and Dutch Governments, the Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers raised their voices against the Viet Nam war.

Nixon must meet this imperious demand of the American women and people

In the same protest campaign, the world peoples have given a relevant response to Nixon's arrogant challenge. In Italy, empty bottles, bricks, stones and fire-bombs were hurled at the US Army Travel Bureau, at a US factory producing electronic equipment, and in Bangla Desh, US information halls were burned down. Dockers in many countries have been extending the boycott of US ships (it is being kept up and developed in Italy, Australia and Denmark) in order to pressure the Nixon administration into signing the accord reached with the DRVN Government. Such measures have caused to the US no small damage. At the same time, people throughout the world have been speeding up the campaign of collecting money, medicines and clothes for Viet Nam, overtime work for Viet Nam, propaganda for Viet Nam, denunciation of the US imperialists' crimes, raising funds for the rebuilding of the Bach Mai Hospital and other places ravaged by US bombs...

In the United States, several well-known scientists, intellectuals, writers and artists, TU leaders, senators and representatives, war veterans... continue to hold meetings and marches, collect signatures to petitions for an end to the aggressive war and the immediate signing of the October 20 agreement. The majority of Democratic senators and representatives have voted for the cutting of Viet Nam war appropriations with a view to quickly stopping the criminal war and bringing home captured US servicemen. Two prominent Republican Senators W. Saxbe and Clissard Case also scored Nixon as "insane."

This world-wide protest continues to mount though Nixon has had to cease the bombing North of the 20th parallel of the DRVN under the impact of universal opposition. Everyone is heightening his vigilance over the man who has been for scores of years nicknamed "Tricky Dick," because Nixon and Kissinger's professions of peace are "abstract and have no concrete backing" as pointed out by Reverend Father Berrigan, and also because "a temporary halt is but part of the criminal game of pressure" as remarked by Swedish paper *Labour*...

"End the bombing in Viet Nam, sign the October 20, 1972 Agreement!" "An S.O.S. call!" (the foreword of an appeal issued by the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam Permanent Committee). It is the whole world's urgent demand from the US. The White House and the Pentagon must face this fact and adopt an appropriate attitude in the current negotiations between Viet Nam and the US and wind up the long and costly war which only stains the US image.

DINH BA

Chile's President Allende reveiving Mr Nguyen Van Than, head of the South Viet Nam Peace Committee, in the meeting of the World Council for Peace and Support Viet Nam

Aid to Viet Nam

Denmark:

At its extraordinary session on January 2, 1973, said *VNA* quoting a Copenhagen report, the Danish Government decided to present the people of the DRVN with 5,000,000 Kroners (about 700,000 US dollars) to help the victims of the recent US bombings in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas.

Sweden:

On the evening of January 1st, 1973, about 2,000 people in the town of Malmo (Southern Sweden) held a torch demonstration, carrying signs protesting the new act of aggression against North Viet Nam. On the night of December 31st, 1972, 3,000 citizens of Karlstad staged a protest against the US bombing in North Viet Nam.

Recently, the Swedish Committee for Aid to the DRVN has decided to send medicines to victimes of US raids on populous areas in Hanoi and Haiphong. The *International Development Agency* of Sweden has announced a donation of 70,000,000 kroners for the building of two hospitals in Viet Nam.

Norway:

The General Confederation of Trade Unions of Norway has contributed 100,000 kroners to the reconstruction of civil projects demolished by US bombs.

At its January 2 morning session, the Secretariat of the General Confederation of Trade Unions of Norway voted to send 100,000 kroners to the Viet Nam Federation of Trade Unions to help in the reconstruction of public utilities destroyed by US bombs.

On December 20, 1972, some 600 people in Alesund took part in a torch demonstration and later gathered at a rally in support of Viet Nam.

Finland:

On January 5, 1973, the Finnish Government issued a communiqué making known Finland's gift of 1,000,000 marks (about 410,000 US dollars) to help make good the US bombing damage in the DRVN.

France:

A number of doctors of France's Cochin hospital have launched an appeal for funds to rebuild Hanoi's Bach Mai hospital the biggest of its kind in the DRVN, almost completely flattened by US bombs on December 12, 1972. The appeal bore the signatures of many professors.

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION